domestic consumption during the last three years are as under:

(in tonne)

Year	Production	Exports	Year	Domestic Consumption (Estimated)
1993-94	2,08,000	1,36,690	1994	54,000
1994-95	1,80,100	1,37,395	1995	54,000
1995-96	2,23,000	1,70,581*	1996	55,000

*—subject to upward revision.

(b) The projections made for 1996-97 are as follows:—

Production	—	2,05,000 tonne (Estimated)
Exports	—	1,50,000 tonne (Target)
Domestic	—	55,000 tonne (Estimated)

(c) The state-wise break-up of the production, projected for 1996-97 season is as below:

(in tonne)

State	1996-97
Karnataka	1,41,000
Kerala	47,300
Tamil Nadu	15,700
Non-Traditional Areas	1,000
Total	2,05,000

Assessment of export and import policies

*258. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the assessment made in regard to export and import policies for creating a long term impact on India's exports; and

(b) measures taken to meet export targets of the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The thrust of the Export-Import Policy 1992—97, is export promotion which is crucial for external sector management and is the result of continuous and intensive inter-action with Trade and Industry. The focus of the export promotion schemes in the Policy is on strengthening the export production base and improving the cost competitiveness of export products besides achieving quality improvement and technological upgradation.

(b) Measures taken to meet export target of the current year include frequent reviews of export performance, simplification of Export & Import Policy and Procedures, debottlenecking of export infrastructure, promotion of joint ventures and bilateral trade with other countries. Specific actions taken this year include:

(i) To improve infrastructure specifically related to export production, the Crucial Balancing Investment Scheme has been operationalised.

(ii) Regional bilateral initiatives have been taken such as operationalisation of SAPTA.

(iii) Special thrust is being given to 43 countries of Latin American Region by giving double weightage for grant of recognition as Export House/Trading House/Star Trading House/Super Star Trading House.

(iv) Small Exporters with an average export turnover of Rs. 2 crores in the preceding three years or with a turnover of Rs. 5 crores in the preceding year have been made eligible for grant of Special Import Licence to give a special boost to exports of products manufactured in SSI and tiny sector.

(v) India Brand Equity Fund has been launched to build up a brand

image for Indian export products abroad.

(vi) With a view to improving the level and scope of incentives to the Indian exporters against their actual export performance, Special Import Licence entitlement of Export House/ Trading House/Star Trading House/ Super Star Trading House has been increased by 18 across the board and the number of itmes on the SIL list have also been increased.

Targets fixed for export of basmati rice

*259. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of targets of export of basmati rice fixed for the year 1996-97;

(b) the steps being taken by Government to boost export of basmati rice; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) An export target of 4,25,000 MTs of Basmati rice valued at Rs. 900 Crores has been fixed for the year 1996-97.

(b) and (c) Some of the steps taken to enhance exports of basmati rice include removal of Minimum Export Price (MEP) and quantity restrictions, stregthening of quality control, arranging buyer-seller meets and participation in international fairs/ exhibitions.

Demand for Increase in Quota of Rice and Wheat for Kerala

*260. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala Government has requested for increase in the quota of rice and wheat for PDS; and

(b) if so, to what extent and the decision taken on the request?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Kerala has requested for increase in allocation of rice and wheat vide their letter dated 29.7.96 as under:—

	Existing Allocation per month (in '000 MT)	Allocation requested by State Govt. per month (in '000 MT)
Rice	150.00	125.00 (from July, 96 to Dec., 96)
		150.00 (from Jan., 97 to Dec. 97)
Wheat	50.00	60.00 (from July, 96 to June, 97)

However, keeping in view, the overall availability of wheat and the requirements of various States/UTs, it was decided to reduce the allocation of wheat from 50,000 MT to 45,000 MT for the month of November, 1996 and to increase the allocation of rice by an equal amount, since Kerala is basically rice consuming State. On the same basis, the allocation of wheat was further reduced from 45,000 MT to 42,000 MT for the month of December, 1996 and allocation for rice increased correspondingly.